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EVENING PAPERS : MONDAY, 25TH JULY, 1949.

MORNING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 26TH JULY, 1949.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - MAY, 1949.

Employment figures for May 1949 have again exceeded all previous totals. The estimated number of wage and salary earners in employment (exclusive of rural workers and female private domestics) was 1,786,800 males and 664,000 females - 2,450,800 persons.

The increase during May of 10,000 males was distributed over all States, and that of 1,600 females over all except Victoria and Western Australia. On an industrial basis the distribution of the increase was as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Factories	+ 2,900	+ 400
Building and Construction	+ 2,300	-
Transport and Communication	+ 3,100	+ 600
Finance, Property and Commerce	+ 1,100	+ 400
Other Groups	+ 600	+ 200
Total	+10,000	+1,600

The Building and Construction and Transport and Communication Groups were mainly responsible for an increase of 6,200 persons in the employment of Government, Semi-Governmental and Local Authorities. Another factor was an increase in the Army Department (200) attributable largely to the employment of "Displaced Persons" in a temporary capacity.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated total employed in factories at the end of May was 628,100 males and 213,000 females. With the exception of Woodworking, Furniture etc., all classes of manufacture shared the increase in male employment, the largest being 1,200 in Metals, Machines, Vehicles etc. which had been affected by industrial disputes in the previous month. In the case of female employment no consistent pattern is apparent in the variations between different classes. Of the major changes Metals, Machines, Vehicles etc. showed an increase (400), Textiles a decrease (100) whilst Food, Drink and Tobacco suffered a seasonal decline of 250.

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